

March 11, 2019

Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Senate Business and General Government Committee
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Public Hearing on SB 829, SB 830 and SB 831

Dear Chair Riley, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support SB 829, SB 830 and SB 831. Please vote yes on this suite of bills to implement stronger labeling and content standards for wines produced in the Willamette Valley and other Oregon wine regions.

SB 829 would require a wine label to include the name "Willamette Valley" if it contains the name of one of its "nested" viticultural areas. SB 830 would move the threshold on the grape variety content of certain wines labeled Willamette Valley from 90% to 100%. SB 831 would ensure all the grapes used in a Willamette Valley wine come from Willamette Valley. The three bills are open for all the wine regions to implement for their areas through an OLCC rulemaking process. These bills are a crucial step forward for the wine industry.

As a wine consumer and Oregon wine educator, I firmly believe it is essential to accurately identify the growing region of the grapes for Oregon wines on every single bottle that is produced. Ensuring that our location is represented accurately is crucial to upholding the Willamette Valley's standard of quality and global wine reputation. Because of our commitment to quality and integrity in winemaking we have grown to be a region that is respected, honored, and highly-regarded. We need these bills to pass to ensure that this very special growing area maintains its true Oregon integrity through proper labeling. Our reputations and brand equity are represented on every wine label and in every bottle of wine that we produce.

The Willamette Valley Winegrowers Associations has developed the content of these bills through extensive conversations with members of the Oregon wine industry. We have worked hard to find consensus within our region and have traveled around the state in an attempt to accommodate concerns from other areas. These bills represent compromise and should move forward with the requested amendments. We look forward to supporting the implementation of the statutes through an OLCC rulemaking process.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony. Please vote yes on SB 829, SB 830 and SB 831.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Janzen
Evenstad Center for Wine Education at Linfield College
900 SE Baker St. McMinnville, OR 97101